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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/787,198	03/15/2001	Simon Alexander Beddus	36-1431	6256

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EXAMINER

EL CHANTI, HUSSEIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

6

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/787,198

Applicant(s)

BEDDUS ET AL.

Examiner

Hussein A El-chanti

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3.5</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to application filed on March 15, 2001. Claims 1-21 are pending examination.

Specification

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

2. The specification does not include headings such as "Background of the invention", "Summary of the invention"...

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Porter et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,332,023 (referred to hereafter as Porter).

As to claim 1, Porter teaches a communications service platform comprising:
a multiplicity of loosely coupled subsystems, each of the subsystems including:
respective service processing resources (see col. 2 lines 56-col. 3 lines 20); and
a respective resource locator, each resource locator including means for
communicating to others of the resource locators data indicating the subsystem identity
and data indicating the availability of resources in the respective subsystem (see col. 3
lines 30-40), and

means for receiving identity data and resource availability data for resource
locators in others of the subsystems (see col. 3 lines 30-40).

As to claim 2, Porter teaches a platform according to claim 1, in which the
resource locators are arranged to communicate directly with each other by peer-to-peer
signaling (see col. 2 lines 56-67).

As to claim 3, Porter teaches a platform according to claim 1, further comprising a resource broker and in which at least some communication between the resource Locators is mediated by the resource broker (see col. 2 lines 56-col. 3).

As to claim 4, Porter teaches a platform according to claim 3, in which the resource broker is located in one of the said subsystems (see col. 3).

As to claim 5, Porter teaches a platform according to claim 3, in which the resource broker includes:

a data interface arranged to receive capability data and interface data from respective resource locators, and

a registry arranged to store the said capability data and interface data (see col. 2 lines 30-50).

As to claim 6, Porter teaches a platform according to any one of claims 3, in which a resource locator in a subsystem is arranged initially to read capability data and interface data for another subsystem from the resource broker, and subsequently communicates further data directly with the other subsystem using the interface of the subsystem identified in the said interface data (see col. 3).

As to claim 7, Porter teaches a platform according to any one of claims 3, in which at least one of the subsystems is arranged to communicate directly with a selected other subsystem via a respective specific data interface and in which others of the subsystems are arranged to communicate with a selected other subsystem via an object bus (see col. 2-col. 3).

As to claim 8, Porter teaches a platform according to claim 7 in which the or each said subsystem arranged to communicate directly via a respective specific data interface is arranged, on initialization of the said subsystem, to read data for the selected other subsystem from the resource broker, and in response to calls subsequent to the initialization of the subsystem, communicates directly with the selected other subsystem without reference to the resource broker (see col. 3 lines 30-40).

As to claim 9, Porter teaches a platform according to claim 7, in which the said subsystems arranged to communicate via an object bus are arranged, in response to each new call, to read resource data from the resource broker (see fig. 1).

As to claim 10, a communications system comprising:

a plurality of call processing subsystems;

a network interconnecting the plurality of call processing subsystems;

a resource broker connected to the network, the resource broker including a data interface arranged to receive capability data and interface data from respective call processing subsystems, and

a registry arranged to store the said capability data and interface data (see col. 2 lines 56-col. 3).

As to claim 11, Porter teaches a communications system according to claim 10, further comprising an object bus interconnecting at least some of the call processing subsystems (see fig. 1).

As to claim 12, Porter teaches a communications system according to claim 11, in which communication paths between others of the subsystems bypass the object bus (see col. 3).

As to claim 13, Porter teaches a computing platform comprising a multiplicity of loosely coupled computing subsystems, each of the said subsystems including respective data processing resources and a respective resource Locator arranged (to advertise its identity and the loading of the respective resources and to receive resource signaling from others of the resource Locators (see col. 2-col. 3).

As to claim 14, Porter teaches a method of operating a communications system, the system including a multiplicity processing subsystems and network interconnecting the multiplicity of subsystems, the method comprising;

a) .communicating from resource locator in a respective one of the multiplicity of subsystems to resource Locators in others of the multiplicity of subsystems data indicating the identity of the said one subsystem and the availability of resources in the said one subsystem

b) repeating step (a) for each other of the multiplicity of subsystems:

c) when one of the multiplicity of subsystems, in the course of processing a call, requires resources not present Locally in the said subsystem:

identifying from the said data communicated to the resource locator of the said one subsystem another subsystem having the said resources;

ii) accessing the said subsystem via the network (see col. 2-col. 3).

As to claim 15, Porter teaches a method according to claim 1 4, in which, for each of the multiplicity of subsystems, step (a) is repeated regularly (see col. 3).

As to claim 16, Porter teaches a method according to claim 1 5, in which the period of repetition for step (a) is small compared to the mean duration of a call processed by the communications system (see col. 3).

As to claim 17, Porter teaches a method according to claim 14, in which, for at least one of the multiplicity of subsystems, step (a) is repeated in response to an event in the respective subsystem (see col. 3).

As to claim 18, Porter teaches a method according to claim 1 7, in which the said event is a change in resource availability in the subsystem exceeding a predetermined threshold (see col. 3 lines 30-50).

As to claim 19, Porter teaches a method according to any one of the preceding claims in which the communication of resource data between subsystems is mediated by a resource broker (see col. 3).

As to claim 20, Porter teaches a method according to claim 19, in which data is communicated between at least some of the subsystems and the resource broker via an object bus (see col. 3).

As to claim 21, Porter teaches a method according to claim 20 in which data is communicated between others of the subsystems directly, bypassing the object bus (see col. 3).

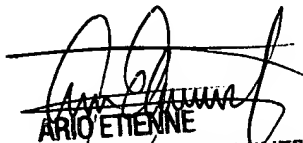
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hussein A El-chanti whose telephone number is (703)305-4652. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703)308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hussein El-chanti

June 2, 2004


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